



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION III
1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103-2029**

January 19, 2005

Interested Parties:

Enclosed for your review are the draft versions of the Fiscal Year 2005 Intended Use Plan (IUP) and the Fiscal Year 2005 Project Priority List (PPL) for the District of Columbia with regard to proposed drinking water improvements to be funded under the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). We are requesting your comments, if any, on the both documents.

As background, the SDWA Amendments of 1996 established a State Revolving Fund (SRF) to assist public drinking water systems in updating and improving their infrastructures. These funds will be awarded in the District of Columbia as grants.

In order to determine the best use of Federal funds, these two documents are developed to evaluate and rank proposed projects and describe what projects will be funded during the current fiscal year. The PPL ranks projects based on 1) health, 2) regulatory, and 3) reliability, safety, and environmental factors. This is in keeping with the Project Priority Rating System developed jointly by Region III of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the District of Columbia Department of Health (DOH), and the District of Columbia Water and Sewer Authority (WASA) for evaluating drinking water projects in the District of Columbia. This system is used to rate and rank projects on the PPL. The highest rated projects are at the top of the list followed by the lower rated ones in ranked order. The PPL spans a greater time period, generally five or more years, and presents a long term strategy while the IUP focuses only on how funds will be expended during the current fiscal year, Fiscal Year 2005.

This year, the draft Fiscal Year 2005 IUP identifies three new projects proposed for Federal funding. These have received the highest ranking on the PPL. The common purpose of these three projects is to replace lead service lines. Service lines are the pipes that convey water from the main water lines into individual homes. In some cases, these lines were constructed of lead or contain lead products and contribute to the high lead levels found in the tap water at some of these homes. This is a continuation of the program initiated by WASA two years ago in order to comply with the Lead and Copper Rule requirements of the SDWA.

There are four other projects listed further down and ranked lower on the PPL that are scheduled for implementation this fiscal year. These will be undertaken by WASA, using its own funds.

A public meeting was conducted by WASA and the DOH on December 16, 2004 on these draft documents and specific projects to be undertaken. Although the meeting was advertised, no one from the public attended.



By means of this mailing and through our website, EPA is soliciting public comment on the enclosed draft Fiscal Year 2005 IUP and the draft Fiscal Year 2005 PPL. A public hearing will be held only if significant concerns are expressed.

If you have any concerns with or objections to the IUP or PPL, please notify me in writing within 30 days of the date of this letter. Please feel free to call Mr. Kenneth Pantuck at (215) 814-5769 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Victoria P. Binetti
Associate Director for
Municipal Assistance
Water Protection Division

Enclosures

